

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

W. H. P. LION, Editor and Proprietor,

CHAS. M. DAVIS, Contributing Editor.

OUR PUBLICATION OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

Terms—\$1 a year, in advance.

" " for 6 mos. "

" " for 3 mos. "

" " to Clergymen.

" " to School Instructors.

ADVERTISEMENTS, first insertion, \$1 an inch;

second and third insertion 50 cents an inch;

subsequent insertion 25 cents an inch.

Long advertisements by the year at half those rates.

Special rates made with large advertisers.

Marriage and Death Notices 25 cents each.

Special Reports made for agreed consideration.

OUR JOURNALISM IN BLOOMFIELD.

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES—APOLOGY—TOWN AFFAIRS.

In starting the GAZETTE in 1872—the first newspaper ever published here—we placed before our minds an ideal local journal which we believed must succeed.

It was to be published, *not for our pleasure, nor, primarily, for our profit; nor in the interest of any party, sect or clique; nor for the propagation of any peculiar dogma.* Its aim was to be too noble to be minister, too high to be selfish, too patriotic to be corruptible, too independent to be partisan.Our first purpose was, and is, to be true, our second to be *fearless*, our third to be *firm*, and our fourth to be *persistent*. Our life-long motto, *temeris propositis*, has been verified; we trust in our overruling determination to be faithful to the best interests of our constituency.

APOLOGIC.

While we have constantly labored to perfect and carry out this ideal in establishing a local journal for Bloomfield and Montclair, we have all along taken regretful cognizance of our defects, our shortcomings, and our indiscretions without number. Our zeal in the good work has, no doubt, often exceeded the limits of sound judgment. The cause and the work that seemed to us so desirable, so advantageous, so indispensable, we have pressed upon the attention of our citizens with an earnestness which has sometimes laid us open to the erroneous charge of egotism and even egomatism. Our strong conviction of the necessity, the advantage and the wisdom of certain town improvements and of certain town measures have probably led us to neglect some who thought differently or who opposed the obvious interests of the town from mistaken views. But we have always desired to encourage other citizens in the freely private of holding and expressing their individual opinions on any and every question. With the apologetic admissions and a sincere regret if any inconsiderate or needless word of ours should have at any time wounded feelings; we intend, in future, to be more judicious in the exercise of the spirit and language of amity and kindness.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

We now bespeak a careful consideration of some remarks we have made in explanation of certain "town affairs" of general interest to which we have alluded in these columns before. It is well known that we have had no public improvements in Bloomfield except the gas light. But who has the Town Committee taken such an attitude toward public improvements? If we understand rightly, they say by their President, that they have no power except what the people specifically give them at the Annual Town Meeting.

It shall be so, we may as well give up all hope of any extended or important town improvements very soon. For no large and promiscuous assemblage of citizens is in a condition to act wisely and intelligently in a single evening of hurry and bustle, upon the important measures which most affect town interests. But we are inclined to think this position colors a fallacy. Every public measure must be *thought out, elaborated and clearly presented* in detail before it can awaken an executive public interest and be ready for the action of a public assembly. This requires an intelligent, thoughtful, interested mind or minds, and perhaps professional engineering skill. The Town Committee is the only party that is, virtually, to all our citizens.

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THE TOWN COUNCIL—THE APPROACHING ELECTION.

Prompted by the above observations it is suggested to our mind to say that every community, large or small, i.e., every portion of the "body politic," needs a head, who shall also be, to a certain extent, a leader. Without looking at other more notable cases, generally admitted, and even established by law, it should be evident to every thinking man that the interests of our towns do constantly suggest the importance and necessity of such a directing influence.

OBSTACLES IN THE WAY.

Here, in the first place, everything is in a state of primitive simplicity. Every citizen for himself and for his family, is a law unto himself. Every question is considered as it bears upon his personal necessity, or certain advantage, or immediate convenience. It does not enter into his heart to make a sacrifice, even a small one, for the greater benefit of his neighbor, or the advantage of the town, or to pay a small sum now, for an improvement that will benefit a whole community and even enhance the value of his own property to many times his share of the cost of the improvement. The roads were good enough for his forefathers, they will do for him (or) if anybody wants them let him make them! "Gas was not thought necessary forty years ago and I can get along without it; let those who want it pay for it!" His ancestors generally lived to a good old age without considering the sanitary condition of the ground and the neighborhood, and he don't see the need of so much ado and so great expense to render the locality more salubrious and delightful. In the matter of schools he is a little, more yielding, as he means his son to have a good education to fit him for the Legislature or for Congress. But still he doesn't see the need of a \$10,000 school house and \$8,000 a year to carry on the schools. Didn't he get his learning in a school house that cost only \$2,000, and from a teacher that was paid only \$10 a month?

Thus it runs through the whole experience of the community, who, however they may mentally approve of the progressive spirit that agitates the world, and perhaps secretly rejoice at the prospect of its incubating in their own town, yet *ostensibly* oppose any improvements that will add to their taxes, saying—"if any body wants them they should pay for them."

Of course there can be little or no progress in such a community or in such a town:

ECCE SIGNUM.

What is wanted is a master spirit whose motives, fair-mindedness, good judgment, incorruptible probity and earnestness for the public good will not be questioned, which can place itself in the van and develop and concentrate public sentiment. We have such men in every town and from them our Township Committees should be selected. Then—

THE TOWN COUNCIL.

would be the proper and accepted leader and guide in all progressive measures and desired improvements. Such a council will appreciate the value of the local news-paper as its most important conductor in harmonizing varying opinions and situating popular desires in the right direction. Public officers can give no better proof of their weakness and incompetency than to undertake to taboo or repudiate the local journal of their town, effectively laboring with them in subserving the public weal and promoting the best interests of society.

Finally, we cannot close these remarks without expressing our deliberate conviction, *First*—That national or partizan policies ought to have no influence in our local town affairs. That whether a citizen be Democratic or Republican should not be the criterion of selecting candidates for our town offices.

Second. That the Township Committee should not be chosen by sections. Our towns are not so large, nor their interests so various as to render this necessary. It has already borne ill fruit, and if we mistake not there are sound reasons why the practice should be discontinued.

HOME MATTERS.

WATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre Feb. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

At 7 A.M. 7° 13° 29° 34° 32° 33° 38°

At 1 P.M. 16° 23° 33° 30° 35° 47° 48°

At 9 P.M. 13° 27° 36° 25° 32° 40° 41°

MONTCLAIR.

SCHOOL CIRCULAR.

The trustees of the Montclair Public Schools have just taken a most important step in advance, as will be seen by the following circular addressed to the patrons of the school, that is, virtually all of our citizens.

The excellent and scholarly principal, Mr. Spaulding, after getting well acquainted with the classes and the scholars, saw his opportunity to give an impetus to the cause of education that would redound to the credit of Montclair and the lasting benefit of the pupils of our already celebrated public school. He submitted the matter to the trustees who deliberated over it in successive meetings and in conference with Mr. Spaulding, and recommended unanimously to adopt his recommendations.

It there is anything to be deplored in the rapid advances in our educational systems it is the tendency of both parents and scholars to shirk the confinement and labor of arduous study, and content themselves with a mere smattering of knowledge and a superficial acquaintance with the branches they pursue and the authors they read.

It is the opinion of the trustees that the matter in question is the only one which can be of service to the school.

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